

PEOPLE—PLACES—PLANES

Edited by Josh Phillips



An AV-8B with VMM-266 (Rein) returns to USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) in the Mediterranean on 20 March 2011 after striking Libyan Army ground forces on the first night of Operation Odyssey Dawn. U.S. Navy aircraft, including EA-18G Growlers, joined U.S. Air Force and coalition air units and other naval forces in enforcing U.N. Resolution 1973. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon)

On the Move

VMFA-232 (3rd MAW) relinquished its area of responsibility (AOR) to VMFA-122 (2nd MAW) on 20 November 2010. The 2nd MAW was activated 23 November 2010 in preparation for a 12-month deployment to Afghanistan.

USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) deployed 30 November 2010 for a final training exercise and began a scheduled seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf regions.

VP-16 returned home to NAS Jacksonville on 1 December 2010 after completing a six-month deployment that included 60 combat missions, 125 counter-narcoterrorism missions, and multiple missions in the Mediterranean.

USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) returned to its homeport of Yokosuka, Japan, on 14 December 2010 following a three-week deployment. The carrier participated in exercise Keen Sword 2010 alongside elements of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Republic of Korea Navy.

USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68) arrived at NB Kitsap, Wash., on 9 December 2010 for a year of maintenance work. *Nimitz*

will replace USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) as the aircraft carrier homeported at NS Everett.

The *Peleliu* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) returned to San Diego, Calif. on 18 December 2010 after a seven-month deployment to the 7th and 5th Fleet AORs, providing humanitarian relief in Pakistan and conducting counter-piracy operations off the Horn of Africa.

The *Carl Vinson* Carrier Strike Group (CSG) arrived in the 7th Fleet AOR on 31 December 2010 as part of a scheduled deployment.

USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) deployed to the Middle East on 13 January 2011. The CSG transited the Suez Canal and entered the 5th Fleet AOR on 15 February.

The *Essex* ARG and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived off the coast of Sihanoukville, Cambodia, on 26 February 2011 to participate in the Cambodia Maritime Exercise 2011.

USS *Green Bay* (LPD 20) departed San Diego, Calif., for its maiden deployment to the Western Pacific on 22 February 2011.

USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) and USS *Ponce* (LPD 15) entered the Suez Canal on 1 March 2011 en route to the Mediterranean, in the midst of ongoing turmoil in Libya. The Pentagon sent an additional 400 Marines to join *Kearsarge* near North Africa in response to the unrest that began on 15 February.

USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76) and CVW-14 completed pre-deployment training on 5 March 2011, and departed for a regularly scheduled deployment to the Western Pacific and Central Command AOR.

The *Boxer* ARG entered the 7th Fleet AOR on 6 March 2011 as part of the ship's Western Pacific deployment.

USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44) and embarked security cooperation task force completed their Amphibious Southern Partnership Station 2011 deployment 5 March 2011, following stops in Central and South America.

USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) returned to NB Kitsap on 8 March 2011 after spending nearly two months at sea for a training mission off the Southern California coast.

Milestones

The first F-35C Lightning II carrier variant, the Navy's first stealth fighter, arrived at NAS Patuxent River on 6 November 2010. During a flight test on 4 March 2011, the aircraft flew in excess of the speed of sound for the first time.

USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75) completed its 100,000th arrested aircraft recovery on 7 November 2010.

As part of the Navy's green energy initiative, an MH-60S Seahawk flew on a 50/50 biofuel blend on 18 November 2010 at NAS Patuxent River.



Sailors from HS-4 load supplies onto an HH-60H aboard Ronald Reagan off the coast of Japan on 14 March 2011. The carrier and other vessels—including USS *Essex* (LHD 2), USS *Tortuga* (LSD 46), and USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49)—provided humanitarian aid to Japan after a devastating earthquake on 11 March. (Photo by MC3 Kyle Carlstrom)

The MQ-8B Fire Scout vertical takeoff and landing tactical unmanned aerial vehicle conducted its first test flight on 18 November 2010 from USS *Freedom* (LCS 1).

Staff Sgt. Chris S. Garrison, a CH-53E crew chief with HMH-366, reached the 3,000 hour flight milestone on 10 November 2010.

Abraham Lincoln launched its 1,000th sortie mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on 28 December 2010 in the Arabian Sea.



One of the first pieces of steel of the Navy's next aircraft carrier, CVN 79, is cut during a ceremony in Newport News, Va., on 25 February 2011. (Photo by Northrup Grumman Shipbuilding)

The E-2D Advanced Hawkeye made its first launch on 1 February 2011 and its first landing on 3 February aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).

USS *Makin Island* (LHD 8) became the first West Coast ship to conduct flight deck operations with the MV-22 Osprey on 1 March 2011.

Boeing Corporation began final assembly of the first production version of the P-8A Poseidon multimission maritime aircraft at its facility in Renton, Wash., on 9 March 2011.

Awards

USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) and CVW-7 were awarded the "Jig Dog" Ramage Carrier and Carrier Air Wing Operational Excellence Award, along with the Adm. H. Flatley Memorial Award for 2009, during a ceremony aboard the ship on 20 January 2011.

Harry S. Truman was named the 2010 Battle Efficiency award winner by Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, on 2 February 2011. This is the ship's third consecutive Battle "E" award and the sixth award in the ship's 12-year history. *Abraham Lincoln* earned the distinction as the Naval Air Forces Pacific Battle "E" award winner.

On 3 February 2011, four Marines from Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st MAW, received naval aviation observer wings during a ceremony at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa. The ceremony was held to honor the airborne command and control missions flown by these Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MC1 (AW/SW) Leslie L. Tomaino and PR1 (AW/SW) Amy E. Davis were named Sea Sailors of the Year by Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, on 10 March 2011

Changes of Command

Col. Andrew G. Shorter relieved Col. Russell A. C. Sanborn from command of MAG-14 on 8 November 2010.

Capt. Glenn R. Brandenburg relieved Capt. John F. Weigold IV as Navy Reserve Commander, 7th Fleet, at Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth, Texas, on 13 November 2010.

Rear Adm. Peg Klein relieved Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 5, aboard Naval Support Activity Bahrain on 14 November 2010.

Capt. Greg McWherter relinquished command of the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, "The Blue Angels," to Cmdr. Dave Koss at NAS Pensacola on 14 November 2010.

On 19 November 2010, Cmdr. James A. McPherson relieved Cmdr. John A. Suazo as commanding officer of Strike Fighter Weapons School, Atlantic.

Cmdr. James McCall relieved Cmdr. Matthew Leahey as commanding officer of VFA-211 on 19 November 2010.

Cmdr. Todd Vandegrift relieved Cmdr. Todd Gilchrist as commanding officer of HSC-28 on 19 November 2010.

Col. Peter G. DeVine relieved Col. Jeffrey L. Merchant as commanding officer of the Marine Air Control Group 28 on 3 December 2010.

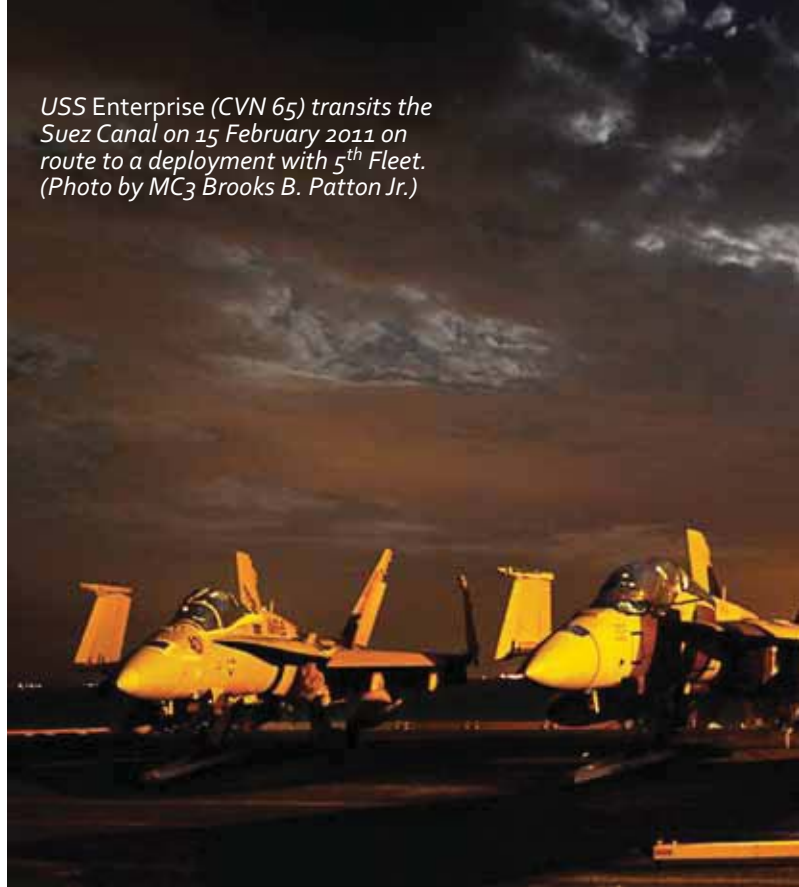
Cmdr. William B. Hammack relieved Cmdr. Kurt E. Weidman as Commander, Airborne Command Control and Logistics Wing Squadron Augment Unit, on 4 December 2010 at NS Norfolk.

Cmdr. Ronald A. Dowdell relieved Cmdr. Brian A. Gebo as commanding officer of HSL-37 on 16 December 2010.

Capt. Jeffrey A. Davis relieved Capt. Patrick R. Cleary as commander of CVW-8 on 17 December 2010 at NAS Oceana.

Cmdr. James J. Elias relieved Cmdr. Glenn Jamison as commanding officer of VAW-113 at NB Ventura, Calif., on 15 December 2010.

USS Enterprise (CVN 65) transits the Suez Canal on 15 February 2011 on route to a deployment with 5th Fleet. (Photo by MC3 Brooks B. Patton Jr.)



Cmdr. Markus J. Gudmundsson was relieved by Cmdr. Vorrice J. Burks as commanding officer of VFA-41 on 15 December 2010 at NAS Lemoore.

Cmdr. Steven J. Marinello relieved Cmdr. Steven P. Knight as commanding officer of VR-46 on 18 December 2010.

Cmdr. Matthew L. Arny relieved Cmdr. Trenton S. Lennard as commanding officer of the VFA-154 on 13 January 2011.

Cmdr. William D. Brewster Jr. relieved Cmdr. Courtney B. Smith as commanding officer of VAQ-142, 13 January 2011 at NAS Whidbey Island.

Cmdr. Christopher Ford relieved Cmdr. Trey Sisson III as commanding officer of VFA-115 on 13 January 2011.

Capt. Douglas J. Ten Hoopen relieved Capt. Carl F. Bush as Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, on 3 February 2011.

Cmdr. J. Scott Boros relieved Cmdr. Steven D. Francis as commanding officer of TACRON-22 on February 2011.

Cmdr. George Walborn relieved Cmdr. Gilbert Miller as commanding officer of VR-48 on 4 February 2011 at NAF Washington, D.C.

Cmdr. Jeffrey A. Bernhard relieved Cmdr. Thomas M. Neill as commanding officer of VAW-124 aboard USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN 77) on 9 February 2011. Cmdr. Garrett I. Campbell assumed the duties of the squadron's executive officer.



On 19 February 2011, Cmdr. Marcello D. Caceres assumed command of VAW-115 based at NAF Atsugi, Japan. He relieved Cmdr. Christopher T. Martin in an airborne ceremony held at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

Rear Adm. Ted N. Branch relieved Rear Adm. Richard J. O'Hanlon as Commander, Naval Air Forces Atlantic, during a ceremony aboard *Harry S. Truman* at NS Norfolk on 25 February 2011.

Cmdr. Steven M. Barr relieved Cmdr. Fitzhugh S. Lee as the commanding officer of VFA-27 on 18 March 2011.

Capt. Christopher L. Shay relieved Capt. Thomas A. Slais Jr. as Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet, in a ceremony on 24 March 2011.

Scan Pattern

The sailors of *George H.W. Bush* helped the crew of a catamaran stranded about 90 miles off Cape Hatteras, N.C., on 3 December 2010.

USS *Essex* (LHD 2) embarked landing craft and air cushion vehicles with the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force on 6 December 2010, as part of exercise Keen Sword 2010.

An MH-60S Knighthawk crew from HSC-26, assisted by a neurosurgeon, evacuated an injured sailor from a U.S. submarine in the Atlantic on 16 December 2010 and flew him to a South Carolina hospital. The helicopter was embarked on *George H.W. Bush*.

Two Navy instructor pilots have been stripped of flying status and two student pilots will have to repeat training because of a September 2010 incident in which they dipped two MH-60R Seahawks into Lake Tahoe while trying to take photos for the squadron's Facebook page.

A Navy rescue helicopter retrieved an injured hiker on 8 January 2011. Through the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, fire rescue requested assistance from HSC-25. The helicopter was able to locate the hiker quickly for transport to a U.S. naval hospital for treatment.

Marines and Sailors with the 11th MEU and soldiers of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force embarked aboard *Makin Island* to participate in the at-sea portion of exercise Iron Fist on 23 February 2011.

Reunions

The USS *Tarawa* Veterans Association will hold its 22nd annual reunion in Baltimore, Md., 28 April-1 May 2011. For more information, please contact Cliff Gardner at 401-539-114 (cliffordgardner.1@verizon.net) or Walter Tothoro at 765-362-6937 (walsue@accelplus.net).

The NOB/NAS Trinidad Reunion Association will hold their reunion in North Chicago, Ill., 29 September-1 October 2011. For more information, please contact F.D. Barrett at 870-496-2285 (barrett27@dishmail.net).

The VQ-1, -2, -5 and -6 Association will hold a reunion on 15-18 September 2011 at Virginia Beach, Va. For more information, please contact Allan Prevette at 805-482-1204 (vq1256@gmail.com).

Mishaps

An F/A-18C, BuNo 165184, departed the runway after landing at NAF El Centro, Calif., on 2 December 2010. The pilot ejected safely.

Two pilots assigned to VT-86 at NAS Pensacola ejected safely before their T-45 Goshawk crashed near Tallahassee, Fla. on 29 December 2010.



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